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5 April 1966

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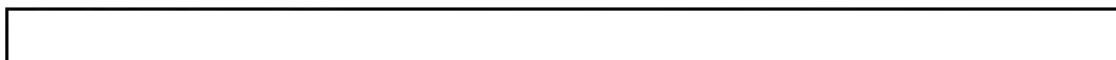
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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

CURRENT INTELLIGENCE
RELATING TO NATIONAL SECURITY

State Dept., JCS reviews completed



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C O N T E N T S

1. Vietnam: Current situation report. (Page 1)



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*Vietnam: (Information as of 4:30 AM EST)

Political Developments in South Vietnam: Units sent by the Ky government to restore its authority in Da Nang have now arrived in the city.

Two Vietnamese Marine battalions were airlifted yesterday from Saigon to Da Nang air base where their mission so far is to secure the Vietnamese portion of the base against any attack. The movement of a third marine battalion from Saigon is now in process.

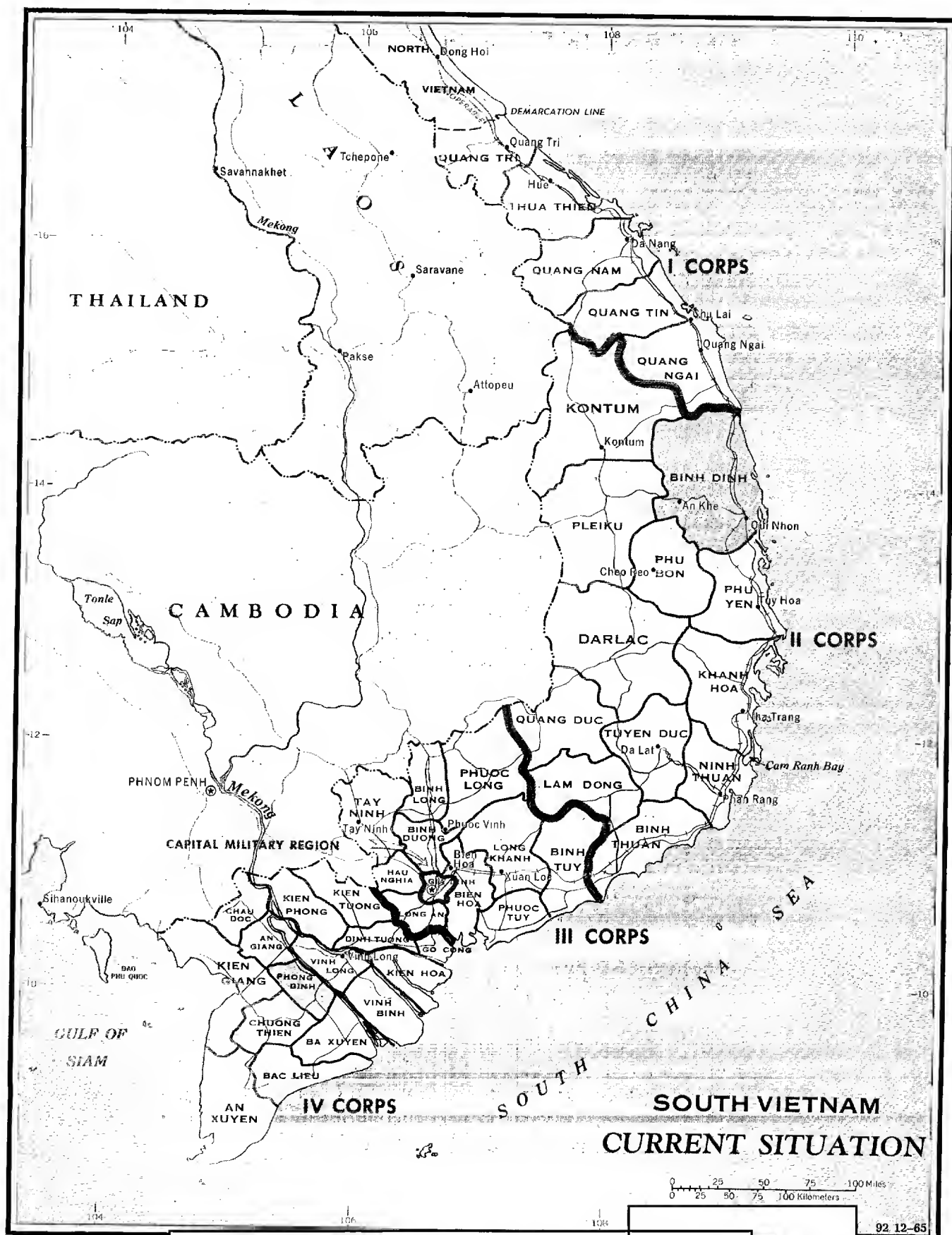
In addition, two Ranger battalions moved by armored car from areas to the north and south of Da Nang, have now entered the city limits. One of the units reportedly skirmished briefly with antigovernment demonstrators near the I Corps Headquarters compound which is adjacent to the air base. Another Vietnamese Army battalion, of unascertained loyalty, had reportedly moved yesterday to the I Corps compound area.

So far, there are no reports of major clashes, but civilians and troops sympathetic to the antigovernment movement have been reported preparing points of resistance inside the city and on its outskirts. The Da Nang municipal radio, which had been an important instrument for the dissident groups during the past two weeks, is now inoperable, after being deliberately sabotaged yesterday by the local station director.

Premier Ky has reportedly flown to Da Nang, presumably to direct the government operation.

For the second time this week, national police in Saigon had to resort to the use of tear gas to disperse unruly groups of Buddhist student demonstrators last night. Government military reinforcements from nearby areas are being moved into the capital.

(continued)



Local authority continues to be highly tenuous in the resort city of Da Lat, where some 200 National Police dispatched from Saigon yesterday were unable to contain student demonstrators. Some minor disorders were reported in other towns.

[redacted] efforts are still being made to keep the door open for a political solution to the present crisis, by indicating to the Buddhists that further changes are still possible in government plans for setting up a constitution drafting body.]

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The Military Situation in South Vietnam: South Vietnamese troops yesterday continued a successful search-and-destroy effort initiated on 3 April in Phong Dinh Province. Viet Cong losses during the two days have been reported as 83 estimated killed, three captured, and 48 weapons. Government casualties total seven wounded thus far.

Elsewhere, South Korean troops operating in Binh Dinh Province since 1 April have reported frequent enemy contact some 17 miles north of the provincial capital. Enemy losses thus far total 188 killed, 35 captured, and 21 weapons. Korean casualties are 19 killed and 49 wounded.

North Vietnamese Military Developments: The presence of another North Vietnamese Army (PAVN) unit--the 95th "B" Regiment--in South Vietnam has been confirmed. This regiment which has a strength of 2,000 and consists of three battalions is the tenth PAVN regiment confirmed in the South. The 95th "B" regiment participated in the attack on the A Shau Special Forces camp in early March. Confirmed North Vietnamese troop strength in South Vietnam now stands at 18,630 in ten regiments and four separate battalions

[redacted] (continued)

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[A study of 125 North Vietnamese soldiers captured in South Vietnam during 1965 indicates that only a handful were voluntary enlistees in the North Vietnamese armed forces. The majority were draftees. Over half had less than one year of military experience before their infiltration, and a third had been in the army less than six months. Many of the prisoners reported that they felt their training prior to infiltration was inadequate.]

[Despite the relatively poor training received by most of the rank and file soldiers, there did not appear to be any lowering of selection or training standards for cadre personnel who formed the leadership of infiltrated units. Almost all of the captured leadership cadre, including a large number who had been recalled into the army from civilian life, were products of the excellent leadership training schools in the DRV.]

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The Under Secretary of State

The Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs

The Deputy Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs

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